(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to defer the taxes imposed on the sugar industry. As regards the taxes imposed by the State Governments the Goverments of U.P. Uttaranchal & Karnataka has informed that there is no such proposal under their consideration. However, the Government of Bihar has informed that they have exempted the sugar Industry from the burden of taxes on purchase of sugarcane which was levied @ Rs. 1.75 per quintal. As such, the sugar industry of Bihar has got a relief of Rs. 7.98 crores in 2005-06 sugar season. This exemption will continue upto 2007-08 sugar season. No information is available in respect of remaining sugarcane producing states.

CWC godowns in A.P.

3694. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a demand that the Food Corporation of India partially use the Central Warehousing Corporation godowns in some places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any plans to help Hamalis and others dependant on work available at Central Warehousing Corporation godowns;

(c) to what extent FCI can use these low-cost godown space of the CWC and save money; and

(d) the steps proposed to examine this matter and use them in the State particularly in Tadepalligudem area?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CWC gets its handling and transportation work done through H&T contractors who appoint the labourers/hamalis for the unloading/loading work undertaken at CWC warehouses at the request of the depositors.

(c) and (d) Food Corporation of India has adequate storage capacity at present to meet its requirements Whenever more storage is necessitated,

instructions already exist for the hiring of Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporation godowns in preference to others. This would apply to Tadepalligudem as well.

BPL families not covered under TPDS in Uttaranchal

3695. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living under BPL in Uttaranchal which are not covered under the Target Public Distribution System;

(b) whether a large number of bogus BPL ration cards are in existence;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the 1993-94 poverty estimation of the Planning Commission projected into the population figures of the Census Report of 2000, the estimated number of BPL households in Uttaranchal is 4.98 lakh (including AAY). The State Government of Uttaranchal has already indentified and issued ration cards for all the 4.98 lakh families including 1.15 lakh AAY.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. But bogus ration cards are verified and eliminated every month.

Procurement of Wheat

3696. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is low procurement of wheat in Punjab and Haryana compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?